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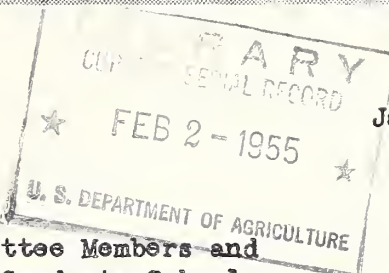
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Newsletter

GRADUATE SCHOOL ★ USDA



January 3, 1954

To the Faculty, Committee Members and others associated with the Graduate School:

I hope the holiday season has been brim full of happiness for each of you and wish that the new year may bring you the maximum of health, satisfaction and success.

The vast diversity of modern government is reflected in each issue of the GS schedule of courses. That for the spring of 1955, now being mailed to you, is no exception.

Among courses being offered for the first time are: Introduction to Operations Research; History of Medicine; Tropical Meteorology (a study of hurricanes); Ocean Surface Waves; Geological Oceanography; Geography of Western United States; Plant Geography; Geography of American Agriculture; Metamorphic Petrology and Petrography; Fundamentals of Standardization (in procurement and property management); Transmission Line Design.

Another course offered under a new name and with a different teaching approach is Conference Methods Workshop. A participation course, it is designed to assist employees who wish to take an active part in meetings of any kind. Instructors are C. O. Henderson and L. K. Wright.

GS students in shorthand asked us to arrange for the new course, Gregg Simplified Dictation, 70-90 words, which will be taught by Ed Robinson, a former GS student.

Among new instructors listed in the spring schedule are: Jerome Perlmutter, Elmo White, Randall Esten, Thomas Saaty, C. C. Bates, Joseph L. Stearn, and Clarice Gullickson.

"Getting a living", which preempted a man's life down through the ages is becoming less and less important as man's ingenuity has increased the world's productiveness. Today, "living together" is the problem to which the great universities must turn their attention.

President Cloyd Heck Marvin of George Washington University sketched some of the issues that "living together" raises in the conduct of a school in a scholarly talk at the second of the GS luncheon programs, December 7.

One very important question, he said, is how to make a social structure within the university that interprets democracy. Before the question can be answered we must have a more definitive description of what we mean by culture in a democracy. Dr. Marvin conceives the university as an environment that permits growth from potential character to responsible maturity.

Economists at the University of Tennessee are developing a new approach to an age-old problem--low income on the farm. Dr. Erven Long of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology outlined some of the findings in the fifth lecture in the series on Farm Policy.

Recalling his own boyhood on a poor northern Wisconsin farm, Dr. Long pointed out that the margins where inefficient producers are forced out are occupied by actual farm families.

The traditional solution to a low income farm area sees the problem as one of unbalance between areas where balance is restored by shifting labor. Dr. Long calls this the static approach. It draws the better educated people, those with smaller families, out of the area and leaves the people least able to reorganize agriculture on the farms. It drains capital out of the low income areas in the form of investments in education.

The dynamic approach sees low income on the farm as a detail in economic growth and the solution in directing economic growth to create rather than to reallocate resources.

The basic question, in Dr. Long's opinion, is whether we rely upon a relocation of our labor force or a redirection of our processes of economic growth as the strategic means of solving rural underemployment.

Dr. Long also made the point that rural poverty is not cut of one cloth but is a patchwork and that many different solutions must be devised. Education is clearly the strongest lubricant of individuals, helping them to adjust to better economic opportunity and stimulating them to make adjustments on the farm. Any program to help low income farmers must rely heavily upon education.

J. K. Galbraith, professor of economics, Harvard University, believes many of our present farm problems can be alleviated by changing the price support technique.

Speaking in the GS lecture series on Farm Policy, December 1, Dr. Galbraith advocated the abandonment of props on all commodities. He would substitute a method which allows prices to find their own level and provides direct payments to farmers.

This would affect a substantial reform he says. Agricultural commodities could be sold on the world market more easily and the domestic market would not be made artificially attractive to foreign producers. Under this plan there would be no more discrimination between storable and perishable products. And surpluses would not become the property and hence the peculiar responsibility of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Dr. Galbraith went on to say the protection to the farmer would be substantially the same. The payments would compensate for adverse

movements in the farmer's terms of trade in times of declining demand. They would preserve the stabilizing effects of the present system.

In further analysis, Dr. Galbraith noted that the plan he proposes would not change the incentive to produce and presumably production would be as large as before. Over-production would be reflected in low market prices and proportionately increased payments to give the farmer guaranteed prices. In effect, he said, the headache induced by surpluses would move across the Mall from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of the Treasury.

In Dr. Galbraith's opinion there is a chance the new support technique would ease the control problem. Supplementary payments could be denied to over-quota production.

When farm surpluses are the result of depression the line of remedy runs to the depression and not to the surpluses. And Dr. Galbraith believes his proposed technique will substantially ease this problem of surplus management, especially for perishables.

In attacking the problem of surpluses in cereals or cotton, Dr. Galbraith would put on a vigorous drive to shift resources to live-stock production where there is much greater elasticity of demand. He would place a positive premium on animal products and offer direct resource transfer payments to farmers who shift land from wheat to permanent pasture and from cotton to balanced-farming systems.

Turn to nearly any technical editor in Federal service and you find a GS alumnus. Most of these editors began their training in the course, Principles of Editing and Their Application, taught for many years by the late M. C. Merrill. Outstanding students were recommended by Dr. Merrill for openings in editorial positions throughout government. Many of them have moved steadily forward to top jobs in the field.

Opportunities for technical editors are on the increase. GS continues to lead other schools in well-staffed training courses. And now a proposal is under consideration to set up a course of study leading to a Certificate of Accomplishment in Editorial Practices.

Under the proposed plan the student qualifying for the certificate would earn 12 credits in the following required courses: Principles of Editing; Advanced Practice in Editing; Printing Procedure and Layout Design; Technical Editing; and Preparation of Popular Publications.

Eight credits, earned in the following courses, could be applied on the certificate: Introduction to Official Writing; Workshop in Official Writing; Readable Writing; Workshop in Technical Writing; Basic Reference Services and Reference Tools; Introduction to Bibliographic Science; Indexing; Graphic Methods of Presenting Statistics; and Statistical Reports.

GS lost a most distinguished faculty member in the death of Nelson Trusler Johnson, December 3. He joined the faculty in 1947 to offer two courses: American Foreign Relations, Policies and Practices; and History of the Far East and South Asia and their Relations with the West. Both were based on his extensive experience as a diplomat.

Known as a "shirt-sleeve" diplomat, Mr. Johnson began his career in 1907 as a student interpreter in China. He was chief of the Far Eastern Affairs Division from 1925 to 1927 and Assistant Secretary of State from 1927 to 1929.

President Herbert Hoover named him Minister to China in 1929. He was elevated to Ambassador in 1935 and held that post until 1941. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1946 after five years as Minister to Australia. From then until 1952 he was secretary general of the Far Eastern Commission.

GS said goodbye to an enthusiastic supporter and a faithful friend, December 31, when Roy E. Miller retired from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He joined the faculty in 1943 as an assistant to the late M. C. Merrill in teaching Principles of Editing and Their Application, and he became the instructor on Dr. Merrill's retirement. A former acting chief of publications in the Office of Information, Mr. Miller has been editor of USDA, the Department house organ for the past two years. All of our good wishes go with him and Mrs. Miller.

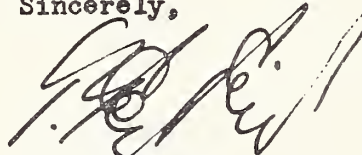
Two GS faculty members--Thelma Dreis and Lucille Boyd--appeared on the program of the second annual secretarial workshop sponsored recently by the Capital Chapter of the National Secretaries Association. Dr. Dreis spoke on Group Dynamics, Mrs. Boyd on Effective Letter Writing.

If you haven't already seen it, let me recommend the article on William A. Jump in the November issue of PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION. The author is Lynn W. Eley, organization and methods examiner, Agricultural Research Service, and instructor for our course, Introduction to Public Administration.

Would you like to subscribe to LIFE and TIME at college rates. All you need to do is to mention GS when ordering your subscription. Vera Jensen of the GS bookstore can give you the details.

Again, I wish for you a full share of the fine things that 1955 has in store.

Sincerely,



T. Roy Reid
Director